

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017, IN THE TERRACE ROOM AT THE GREENBRIAR
COMMUNITY BUILDING.

The meeting began at 7:45 p.m.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Jamie Krauk, Kevin Hammett, Sherry Burks, Ray Raysor, Dea Zugby, Edward Putens, Council Liaison and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Also present were: Bill Orleans, Colin Byrd, Randy Kenwalky and Javien Dawson

Welcome & Introductions

Rick welcomed everyone. Ray recited the Community Pledge.

Approval of Minutes

Sherry moved approval of the Minutes from the meetings on 3/21/17, 6/20/17 and 7/18/17. Ray seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Referral – 13th Amendment/Freedom Day Holiday

Rick summarized the prior discussion. There was consensus that the City observe this important historical event. Everyone agreed that the second Monday was thought to be too close to December holidays. Ray liked June 19th as an observance day. Jamie also liked June 19th as well and thought the summer was a good time. Rick noted some people didn't want a holiday

Sherry liked the idea of an observance on June 19th. Ray observed that the date 619 upside down - was still 619. Kevin referenced the connection to Peace Month which Greenbelt celebrates in June and that a June 19th observance could be part of a larger celebration.

Bill agreed that June 19 could fall in line with Peace Month. He favored a formal holiday.

Colin thought recognition of the abolition of slavery was important. He didn't think the date was the most important thing. He thought how it was recognized was important and suggested some programming around it was important.

Randy thought it was important for schools to recognize this holiday. Javien favored June 19th as the date and noted some families don't celebrate July 4.

Ray favored a recognition day. There was consensus to choose June 19th and incorporate it into Peace Month. Ray encouraged CRAB to be specific in their response/recommendation to Council. Jamie thought that the recommendation should include specific bullets like part of peace month and the reading of the amendment.

Bill agreed with specific recommendations and encouraged CRAB to be more specific.

Kevin and Sherry favored more research. Kevin wanted more information on how it was commemorated in other communities.

Information Day Table at Labor Day

Sherry, Jamie and Kevin noted they were unavailable to assist. Rick, Ray and Dea agreed to specific time slots.

David agreed to follow-up with Dan on his availability. There was discussion of including the CRAB banner, pledge and peace brochures at the table.

Planning for Youth Forum (timing, location, format, follow-up with ERHS)

Rick reported on a conversation with Findley about the forum. He noted that the school would like to lean on the student government association, but that CRAB tends to lean on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

Jamie thought more small group time was valuable. CRAB agreed that Dr. Ray should moderate the forum. Jamie thought that CRAB and YAC could meet with the student government. She noted the need to identify the influencers at Eleanor Roosevelt.

Rick summarized the goals of the forum. Jamie stressed these were listening sessions and wanted to make recommendations to Council about long-term actions.

Dea believed this should be a forum for youth and teens.

Colin believed that generally even non-resident students might still interact with Greenbelt Police because they hang-out in Greenbelt.

Rick asked if CRAB wanted a period at the forum without the Police present.

Ray stated that when he was young, Police officers just rubbed young people the wrong way. He indicated that growing up in the area the Greenbelt Police had a “cowboy” reputation in the rest of the County. Ray commented that asking people where they lived or to provide their address at meetings was like a caste system.

Colin stated that he never heard the cowboy analogy. He observed that there is a chilling effect on communication when Police are around. However, Colin didn’t like the idea of excluding someone from participating based on their occupation.

Kevin stated one of the benefits of the forum was an opportunity for dialogue. He suggested an opportunity for anonymous comments.

Sherry believed Dr. Ray was really good at making participants feel comfortable.

Next Meeting

CRAB scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, September 26 at 7:30pm at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. [Editorial Note: This meeting was later rescheduled to October 3.]

Jamie requested that CRAB discuss the neighborhood liaison roles at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:16pm.